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July 2, 2014

Palmdale Trio Ordered to Stand Trial for String of Robberies

Two men and a woman were held to answer today for a series of robberies at several Palmdale stores including CVS and Walgreens pharmacies and a Little Caesar's Pizza, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Craig Kleffman said Mahealani Austin (dob 2/19/88), Brooke Nicole Hollins (dob 7/6/91) and Marcus Travis Robinson (dob 10/29/89) were ordered to stand trial for 13 counts each of second-degree robbery, eight counts each of kidnapping to commit robbery, four counts each of attempted robbery and two counts each of criminal threats.

Austin and Robinson face an additional two counts each of second-degree robbery and Robinson also was held to answer on one count of possession of marijuana for sale.

The three are scheduled to be arraigned on the 30-count felony information on July 17 in Department A17 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Antelope Valley Branch.

The robberies and kidnappings occurred between Dec. 12, 2011 and Sept. 24, 2012 usually very early in the morning, the prosecutor said. During the robbery several victims were threatened at gunpoint and taken to isolated areas of the retail locations, according to testimony during the preliminary hearing. Several of the stores were robbed more than once, the prosecutor added.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Lancaster Station.

About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the <u>Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office</u> prosecuted more than 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.